(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to recover the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The number of applications pending for issue of licences for S.T.D. P.C.Os in the Metropolitan Cities of the Country:—

Delhi	1032
Bombay	876
Calcutta	665
Madras	6073

(b) and (c) Pending review of STD/PCO Policy, sanction of STD/PCOs was temporary suspended.

Revised policy guidelines have been issued for sanctioning such PCOs for edccated unemployed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Telephone directory for Hyderabad

883. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the periodicity of publishing the telephone directories for the Hyderabad Telecom area;

(b) the year in which the last telephone directory was published for Hyderabad Telephones; and

(c) whether the Hyderabad Telecom bring out telephone directories on annual basis.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The periodicity of publication of Telephone Directories in Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts is once a year.

(b) The last edition of Hyderabad Telephone Directory was published in June, 1992.

(c) No, Sir. Due to failure of the contractor, the periodicity of one year for publishing telephone directories could not be adhered to by Hyderabad Telecom. However, all efforts are being made to adhere to guidelines as at (a) above.

Benefits of new technology to the phone subscribers

884. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to initiate to pass on the benefits of new technology to phone subscribers in the form of letter service and lower tariffs;

(b) whether it is a fact that increase in tariff for telecom services have become a regular feature; and

(c) whether the Telecom system in other countries are being studied to pass on lower phone tariffs to phone users to give relief to the phone owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) Ecorts are continuously being made to improve the service by inducting new technology and pass on the benefits to the subscribers by means of rationalisation of tariffs and better service. The details of action initiated are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The tariffs are rationalised taking into account various factors including tariffs of other countries.

Statement

Following action have been initiated by the Government to pass on the benefits of new technology in the form of better services to the subscribers:

1. Introduction of Digital electronic exchanges in both urban and rural areas with Subscribers Trunk Dialling facilities.

2. Introduction of reliable electronic Push Button type telephone instruments.

3. Introduction of reliable and efficient media by way of Optical fibre, PCM, Microwave, UHF/VHF systems.

4. Introduction of MARR (Multi Access Radio Relay) systems to provide telephones in rural areas.

5. Introduction of packet switched data network.

6. Introduction of Value added services by Private Parties i.e. services like Electronic Mail, Radio Paging, Cellullar mobile service, Videotex, Video Conferencing, Voice Mail, Audiotex etc.

7. Introduction of Remote Area Business Network through Satellits communications.

8. Connecting far flung areas to the Telecom network using satellite.

Expansion of Communication Network in Punjab

885. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to expand its communication network especially in border areas of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 77000 net switching cappacity lines are planned to be added during 93-94 in Punjab and about 51000 new connections are proposed to be given. Of these the following plans are there for the border area districts.

Sl. No	District	Net Switching capacity planned during 1993-94	New connections planned during 1993-94
		lines	lines
1.	Amritsar	6900	4000
2.	Gurdaspur	1500	1200
3.	Firozepur	6000	3100

Telephone Racket in MTNL

886. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Officers of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi were involved in a major telephone racket;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the owners of a Private Telephone Booth managed to get four telephone lines with STD and ISD feilities without these being metered from Shakti Nagar Telephone Exchange under MTNL, New Delhi; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that such cases were reported earlier also and if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Five officials of MTNL have been suspended. The exact number of persons involved in the racket will be known after CBI completes the investigation.

(b) Owners of a few telephones were running a racket of providing STD/ISD calls from their Ashok Vihar premises in connivance with MTNL employees. Two non-metered lines of